

# Menasha police chief visits White House



Ethan Safran, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 1:33 p.m. CDT July 22, 2016



(Photo: Wm. Glasheen/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

MENASHA - A "tremendous experience" is how Menasha Police Chief Tim Styka described a rare trip to the White House in June.

Styka was one of about 75 law enforcement administrators who attended the "21st Century Policing Task Force Briefing," one of a series of meetings stemming from a recent report about policing.

The [final report](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf) ([http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf)), completed last May by a task force of law enforcement officials under the direction of the Obama administration, outlined areas for improvements in policing — including building trust with communities, making sure police policies reflect community values and focusing on community policing.

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The task force also recommended that President Obama support the creation of a National Crime and Justice Task Force to "examine all areas of criminal justice and propose reforms" and take a "comprehensive and inclusive look at community-based initiatives addressing core issues such as poverty, education and health and safety."

Styka said his invitation was due to his involvement with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office). Previously, Styka's department, along with Fox Valley Metro police and Neenah police, received grant-funded COPS Office training in "procedural justice" on March 22.

"(Procedural justice) is a way to resolve disputes where a person has a voice in the decision-making process," Styka said. "It really opens the line of communication and allows people to have a voice in it. That then gets transferred the way (officers) deal with citizens on a day-to-day basis."

Styka said the June 30 event began with opening remarks from administrative officials before the attendees broke into smaller groups to discuss procedural justice, social media, implicit bias and officer wellness. Of the discussions, the chief said he took the most away from the conversations about implicit bias, or common biases that affect what people do.

"Do we, as law enforcement, treat the most affluent people in the community the same way as people that don't have money?" he said. "I don't know if we necessarily do. I think those are areas that we can work on."

Styka said he will be introducing his department to training in implicit bias through modules or implicit bias tests to see where his officers and staff stand.

"A CEO of a company should be treated the same way as a person that drives a 1982 Datsun that may be out of work," he said.

On May 13, Appleton Police Chief Todd Thomas [visited the White House](http://preview.postcrescent.com/story/news/local/2016/05/24/appleton-police-chief-visits-white-house/84794770/) (<http://preview.postcrescent.com/story/news/local/2016/05/24/appleton-police-chief-visits-white-house/84794770/>) to talk about criminal justice reform, community policing and immigration.

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